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## A record of the host plant and larval biology of *Nokona rubra* Arita and Tosevski, 1992 (Lepidoptera, Sesiidae) from Japan

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**Abstract** A new host plant, *Paederia scandens* (Rubiaceae) is recorded for *Nokona rubra* Arita and Tosevski, 1992 from Okinawa-jima I., the Ryukyus. *P. scandens* is well-known as a host plant for *N. pernix* in Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu.

**Key words** Sesiidae, *Nokona rubra*, host plant, Ryukyus.

*Nokona rubra* Arita and Tosevski, 1992 was recently described from three specimens (one male and two females) taken with net on Amami-Ohshima and Okinawa-jima Islands, the Ryukyus, Japan, without any record of host plant (Tosevski and Arita, 1992 ; Arita, 1994).

During our collecting trip to Okinawa-jima Island in July 1994, we found a few damages of the stems and vines of *Paederia scandens* (Rubiaceae) injured by Sesiidae, similar to *Nokona pernix* (Leech, 1889). A little bit later, in the beginning of September, this time on Amami-Ohshima Island, we observed numerous young larvae on the same host plant, but having no chance to breed such young instars of clearwing moths, we did not collect any.

In the beginning of January 1995, Mr M. Kimura sent us several stems of *P. scandens* with clearly visible galls deriving from Okinawa-jima Island. Inside these galls, we found a few medium-sized larvae of Sesiidae. After keeping them in the laboratory at a temperature about 28°C, two females of *Nokona rubra* successfully emerged.

Thus, *Paederia scandens* (Rubiaceae) is the host plant both of *Nokona rubra* and of *N. pernix*. Larval biology of the second species is well-known (Yano, 1961 ; Arita *et al.*, 1994). At the present time, we can cite that the larval biology of *N. rubra* is very similar to that of *N. pernix* in many details (shape of larval gall, very short larval gallery, pupation taking place in a very tough, black cocoon), but it differs clearly in that the larva of *N. rubra* hibernates in a larval gallery (in a tough cocoon in *N. pernix*) and constructs such a tough cocoon only in spring.

Material examined. 1 ♂ (holotype), Japan, Ryukyu Is, Amami-Ohshima I., Ukenson, Akatsuchiyama, 14. VI. 1978, Y. Arita leg. (collection of the senior author (MUT)) ; 1 ♀, Japan, Ryukyu Is, Okinawa-jima I., Shuri, 18. VI. 1970, M. Kinjo leg. (MUT) ; 2 ♀, Japan, Ryukyu Is, Okinawa-jima I., Naha-shi, Tomari, 30. XII. 1994, *ex* l., M. Kimura leg., host plant : *Paederia scandens* (Rubiaceae), moth emerged 23. IV. and 5. VI. 1995 (MUT).

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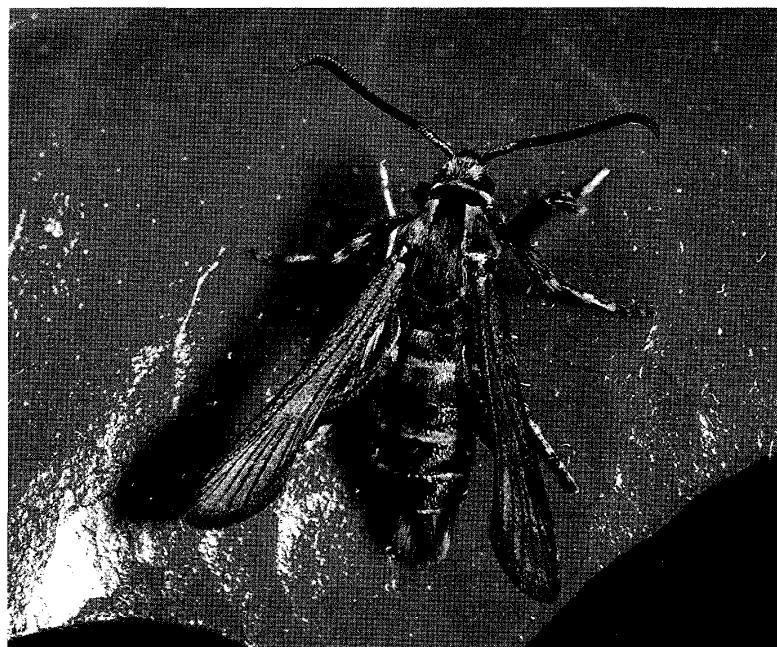


Fig. 1. Freshly emerged female of *Nokona rubra* Arita and Tosevski, 1992.

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### 摘要

アカスカシバ *Nokona rubra* Arita and Tosevski, 1992 (鱗翅目, スカシバガ科) の食草と幼虫生態の記録 (有田 豊・Oleg G. Gorbunov)

1994年7月に沖縄島でスカシバガの採集調査を行ったおり、アカネ科 (Rubiaceae) のヘクソカズラ (*Paederia scandens*) のツルにスカシバガ類の蛹の脱皮殻のついた虫エイを見つけた。その蛹の脱皮殻のついた虫エイはヒメアトスカシバ *Nokona pernix* (Leech, 1889) に酷似していたので、我々はアカスカシバ *N. rubra* Arita and Tosevski, 1992 であると推定した。同年9月にも奄美大島でも多くの小さい幼虫が入った虫エイを見つけたが、幼虫が小さいため飼育は断念した。翌年1995年1月に那覇市在住の木村正明氏より同地のヘクソカズラの虫エイを送ってもらい飼育したところ、

予想通りアカスカシバが2♀, 4月23日と6月5日に羽化した。蛹化に際してはヒメアトスカシバ同様黒褐色の鞘状の繭を作るが、ヒメアトスカシバでは越冬前に作るのに対して、アカスカシバでは越冬後に繭を作った。

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